

Disregard Brown Monitor, Justice Department Asks

The United States Department of Justice has filed a document in federal district court stating that conversations involving black power leader H. Rap Brown were accidentally overheard by electronic devices used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Brown is scheduled to go to trial Monday before federal district Judge Lansing L. Mitchell on charges of transporting a rifle from New York to New Orleans and back to New York last August while he was under arson charges in Maryland.

The government has given to Judge Mitchell for private inspection a sealed exhibit containing certain documents reflecting conversations of Brown which were overheard during the FBI surveillance.

It is claimed by the Justice Department that the matters overheard are not relevant to Brown's case set for Monday and that Judge Mitchell should

so rule after a private inspection, then reseal the exhibit and preserve it in the event there is a conviction and appeal by Brown.

In its motion the Justice Department asserted that Brown "was not and never has been the direct subject of this or any other electronic surveillance by the United States and no electronic surveillance has been conducted in connection with this case."

Certain of the conversations were reported in FBI reports, the motion states, but none of the conversations had anything to do with the case and were not used directly or indirectly as leads to any of the government's evidence.

The motion claims that the United States Supreme Court has approved such "in camera" inspections by the courts.

It is claimed that the electronic surveillance was started several years ago by the FBI in connection with a matter of national security.